



**AN ADVISORY REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR REMARRIAGE
IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EL CAMINO REAL
(TITLE I, CANON 19)**

1. A priest is not obliged to preside at the solemnization of Holy Matrimony against their better judgment.
2. At least one person must be baptized. (Title 1, Canon 18, Section 2[d])
3. One person must be a member of a Christian church and active in its worship and ministry. (Title I, Canon 18, Section 2[b])

“...Both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of two people, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind and will, and with the intent that it be lifelong.”

4. It is preferred that applications for remarriage be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the date of the wedding. No application will be considered after thirty (30) days before the date of the wedding.
5. Applications for remarriage must include all of the following to be considered complete:
 - a. A letter from the priest, explaining his/her judgment about the proposed marriage.
 - b. The “Consent of Solemnization of Marriage” form.
 - c. The “Previous Marriage” form from any person who was married and divorced. (If there was more than one marriage and divorce, a form must be completed for each marriage.)
 - d. Divorce decrees from all prior marriages.
6. The priest shall meet with the couple at least three times (totaling a minimum of three hours) thirty days prior to the wedding. The number of counseling sessions and the length of time may be extended according to the priest’s judgment, and they are encouraged to do so. (Title I, Canon 18, Section 2[e] and Section 3[a])

“...both parties (shall) have been instructed as the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony by a member of the clergy...”

“The intention of the parties to contract marriage shall have been signified to the member of the clergy at least thirty days before the service of solemnization...”

7. Applications for remarriage should not be submitted for persons who are indifferent or hostile to the Church and Christianity. If persons meet the minimum canonical standards and were actively involved in a church at one time in their lives and fully intend to become involved again, the application will be considered if the priest requests it.
8. Every couple must sign “The Declaration of Intention.” (Title I, Canon 18, Section 3[d])

CONSENT FOR SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE

SPOUSE A ☐ Never Married ☐ Widow(er) ☐ Divorced

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Date of Baptism _____ Denomination _____

Date of Confirmation _____ Denomination _____

Communicant of _____

SPOUSE B ☐ Never Married ☐ Widow(er) ☐ Divorced

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Date of Baptism _____ Denomination _____

Date of Confirmation _____ Denomination _____

Communicant of _____

PROPOSED MARRIAGE

Length of time known to each other _____

Date of Ceremony _____ Place _____

Officiant _____

Permanent address after marriage _____

Name and address of church to be attended _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Number of interviews to date _____

Number of additional interviews scheduled before marriage _____

Name of Episcopal priest giving instructions _____

PRIEST'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I have interviewed the above-named applicants and that

_____ and _____

is/are baptized member(s) of _____ Church. I have known them for

_____. If consent is granted, I am willing to officiate at the proposed wedding. ***(Please attach a letter in which you state your reasons for believing that permission should be given for the proposed marriage.)***

Date _____ Signed _____

To those who wish to be married:

In order for me to respond to your request to be married in the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, the clergyperson will need some background information from you about your prior marriage and this marriage that you are committing to.

Please answer these questions and include them in a letter to your clergy. If both spouses have had prior marriages, each will need to answer all four questions. If this is the first marriage for one spouse, they will need to answer questions 3 and 4.

Questions:

1. Why do you believe your prior marriage did not succeed? What attempts were made to reconcile the differences between you and your former spouse?
2. What arrangements have been made for the custody and care of the children of the former marriage?
3. What is your understanding of the meaning of Christian marriage and family life?
4. How will you and your prospective spouse seek religious and spiritual nourishment in your marriage?

Please know that your letters to your clergy will be treated with the utmost respect and confidence. When the clergy communicates to me regarding the completion of your forms and your letters to them, my decision will be communicated to your priest. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful, honest replies to these questions. We take the covenant of marriage seriously and desire for it to be a healthy, loving journey for you.

Faithfully,



The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby
Bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE

(If more than one marriage and divorce, please submit form for each marriage)

Name _____

Date of previous marriage _____

Church: _____ Place _____
City/State

Name, Address and Present Marital Status of Former Spouse

Your age at time of marriage _____ Spouse's age _____

Length of time known to each other prior to marriage _____

Was this the first marriage for both of you? _____

Number of children of this marriage _____

Ages _____

Are they financially dependent upon you? _____

Religious or Church affiliations(s) during marriage

Date of Actual Separation _____

Date of Divorce _____

Court and State in which divorce was granted _____

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

We

and

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of two people as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that this union, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.

Signature of Spouse A

Signature of Spouse B

Date: _____